UNITED NATIONS **S**

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7 March 2000

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LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 2000 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 23 February 2000 (S/2000/188) concerning the composition of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. Having consulted those members, I support your intention to appoint Mr. Liu Daqun as a judge of the Chambers of the International Tribunal.

(Signed) Anwarul Karim CHOWDHURY
President of the Security Council

00-33392 (E) 090300

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LETTER DATED 7 MARCH 2000 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 6 March 2000, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

00-33166 (E) 080300

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Annex

Letter dated 6 March 2000 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(Signed) The Rt. Hon. Lord ROBERTSON
of Port Ellen, PC

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. During the reporting period (13 January-12 February 2000), there were approximately 24,000 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and from 15 non-NATO countries. Stabilization Force (SFOR) troops continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations in the theatre by means of ground and air patrols. Operations across the SFOR area included area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the entity armed forces, conducting weapons storage site inspections and providing support to the international organizations in the theatre.

2. SFOR troops continued to monitor compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), which prohibits the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by providing an intensified presence on the ground in order to enforce the embargo. No violations were reported.

3. SFOR also continued to monitor the movement of controlled petroleum products into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by establishing traffic control points. No violations were reported.

4. On 25 January, SFOR troops in the Multinational Division (MND) (South-East) detained a Bosnian Serb, Mitar Vasiljevic, who had been indicted for war crimes by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Vasiljevic was subsequently transferred to The Hague.

5. In accordance with the broadcasting ban imposed by the Independent Media Commission in November 1999 on the Croatian television station Erotel, the Office of the High Representative made an official request in early February for SFOR to support the Commission in reconfiguring the Erotel transmission sites. The reconfiguration began on 17 February.

6. The final phase of the Brcko (MND (North)) demilitarization process continued without incident. SFOR troops supported the process by providing security.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

7. During the reporting period, the situation remained stable, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. The farmers' demonstration in MND (South-East), which began on 20 October 1999, continued throughout the period, with Bosniacs from Gorazde, numbering on average between 10 and 20, demonstrating for their right to work their land in Kopaci in the Republika Srpska. A joint initiative by the Office of the High Representative and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) resulted in the two sides meeting on 1 February and in contacts being established at the working level.

8. On 21 January, 500 people gathered in Mostar to protest the verdicts against five Bosnian Croats delivered by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague. Local police monitored the situation, and there was no violence.

9. During the reporting period there were two minor explosions. The first was in Pale on 31 January, when an explosive device detonated in front of the International Police Task Force (IPTF) station. There were no injuries. In the second, on 31 January, a hand grenade was thrown into a coffee bar in Kalesija in MND (North). Ten people were injured, one of them seriously.

10. Operation Harvest 99, aimed at reducing the private holdings of unregistered weapons, mines and other ordnance, has been extended.

11. On 9 February, SFOR supported the IPTF inspection of the civil police station and offices belonging to the Ministry of the Interior in Livno (MND (South-West)), during which a number of illegal weapons and electronic equipment were confiscated.

12. During the period, SFOR troops conducted 171 military weapons storage site inspections. They confiscated 12 mine fuses, 6 rounds of 20 mm ammunition, 2 porter charges, 3 boxes of M-62 fuses, 16 M51P15 fuses, 5 propellant charges, 1 barrel of AAG/FLAK 48 M1 and 125 rifles.

13. SFOR monitored 469 training and movement activities: 186 Bosniac; 20 Bosnian Croat; 211 Bosnian Serb; and 52 Federation. The training and movement ban on the Republika Srpska Police Anti-Terrorist Brigade remains in force until further notice, as does the ban on elements of the Third Bosnian Serb Army Corps. In addition, on 26 January, the Stabilization Force Commander imposed a training and movement ban on the Croat component of the Federation Army as a result of violations of article 14 of the instructions to the parties (failure to disclose personnel and financial reports, and failure to reinstate Major General Dragicevic). The ban was conditionally lifted on 8 February.

14. The entity armies continued to undertake training and maintenance in preparation for the start of the summer 2000 mine-clearance campaign, which was expected to begin in mid-February.

15. During the period, six illegal checkpoints were reported in MND (North): three in Gradacac on 16 and 17 January, two in Odzak on 21 and 22 January and one in Pelagicevo on 22 January. The local police who set up the checkpoints had no IPTF permit, and the checkpoints were in the zone of separation without IPTF supervision. IPTF was informed in each case, and the checkpoints were dismantled.

Cooperation with international organizations

16. Within its capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in the theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), IPTF, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Office of the High

Representative, OSCE and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

17. During the reporting period, SFOR responded to requests from UNHCR to support minority returnees and refugees, although only 20 such returns took place owing to the heavy snowfalls. In addition, SFOR monitored 844 house-cleaning and assessment visits.

18. On 27 January, the upper airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina (29,000-39,000 feet) was reopened to commercial airlines.

19. SFOR continues to assist the Office of the High Representative in its efforts to establish joint institutions. At the 20 January meeting of the Standing Committee on Military Matters, efforts were made to persuade the Committee to agree to a further 15 per cent reduction in the defence force in 2000, with SFOR offering to assist the entity armed forces to achieve this reduction. The Presidency agreed to address this issue at the next meeting. Also on 20 January, the Federation Defence Minister reported on the work of the working group on the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in peacekeeping missions. A concept for such participation has now been agreed upon.

Outlook

20. Isolated incidents of violence can be expected to continue.

21. SFOR restructuring is proceeding, and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2000.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 6 MARCH 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 5 March 2000 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing pursuit by the United States of America and the United Kingdom of a policy of hostility towards Iraq. During the period from 22 to 29 February 2000, United States and British military aircraft carried out a total of 165 hostile sorties over the cities and villages of Iraq, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-33174 (E) 080300 080300

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Annex

Identical letters dated 5 March 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, between 22 and 29 February 2000, United States and British military aircraft, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, continued to violate Iraqi airspace, carrying out a total of 165 aerial sorties, of which 87 were from Saudi Arabia, 26 from Kuwait and 52 from Turkey. Details are given below:

1. The northern region: 52 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres:

(a) At 1135 hours on 23 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 16 sorties, overflying the Mosul, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Baibo, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah, Sinjar and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1100 hours on 28 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 14 sorties, overflying the Mosul, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Baibo and Aqrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1105 hours on 29 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 22 sorties, overflying the Mosul, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Baibo, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah, Sinjar and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1410 hours, drove them off.

2. The southern region: 113 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres:

(a) At 1220 hours on 22 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 44 sorties, 30 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 14 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Artawi, Taqtaqanah, Qal'at Salih, Afak,

Amarah, Diwaniyah, Ushbayjah and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2000 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1910 hours on 23 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-18 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 6 sorties, 4 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 2 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Lasaf, Ushbayjah, Aniyah, Artawi and Umm Qasr areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2100 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1920 hours on 24 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18 and Tornado aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, they carried out 10 sorties, overflying the Lasaf, south Najaf, Rifa'i, Nasiriyah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2030 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0850 hours on 26 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 sorties, 18 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 4 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Samawah, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Shinafiyah, Qala't Sukkar and Shatrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1040 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0845 hours on 28 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 19 sorties, 13 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 6 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Samawah, Ushbayjah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Taqtaqanah, Afak, Nukhayb, Basra, Safwan, Amarah, Najaf and Ali al-Gharbi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1030 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0805 hours on 29 February 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 sorties, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and overflew the Lasaf, Malutabat, Ushbayjah and Nukhayb areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1033 hours, drove them off.

These acts of aggression represent the continuation of a fixed policy of hostility against Iraq pursued by the United States of America and the United Kingdom since 1992 and aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and regional security, deliberately and systematically bringing death to Iraq's citizens and inflicting damage upon its infrastructure and

civilian installations. This policy has been confirmed by the repeated statements of United States and British officials purporting to defend the aerial exclusion zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the so-called aerial exclusion zones, which were imposed by the United States of America and the United Kingdom pursuant to a unilateral decision which has no legal basis or legitimacy. Iraq rejects all measures taken on the basis of this illegal decision and, in particular, the fabricated excuses and pretexts used by those two States in efforts to disguise their military aggression against our country.

The logistical support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the United States and British sides make them key partners in the aggression against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for these acts against the Iraqi people.

The Government of Iraq, in condemning these acts of provocation, requests that you intervene with the Governments of the States in question with a view to bringing a halt to such acts and preventing their recurrence.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq